Impact of SEZs

171. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of SEZs on industrial growth rate in the country, during the last three years, and what is the expected impact during the ensuing three years; and

(b) how Government propose to justify revenue losses due to concessions being given to SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is expected to provide an impetus to the industrial growth in the country. It is, however, not feasible to quantify its impact on the rate of industrial growth.

(b) In addition to providing boost to the economic activity in the country, the establishment of SEZs is expected to bring in fresh investments including Foreign Direct Investments besides providing employment to a large number of people. This justifies the concessions given to SEZs.

Implementation of National Manufacturing Plan

172. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has asked for Rs. 956 crore for implementing the National Manufacturing Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this help in the creation of cumulative expansion for manufacturing and gainful employment especially in the backward regions of the country like Orissa, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand etc., to improve their economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Small Scale Industry has initiated the process of finalising schemes including obtaining financial

clearances, for implementing that part of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) that has been specifically entrusted to the Ministry of SSI for those programmes/recommendations of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) which are envisaged to be directly executed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and agencies/bodies under its administrative control, DIPP is in the process of finalizing the financial outlays and initiating the process of obtaining requisite clearances for the amounts so determined.

(c) The NMCP when implemented is expected to improve competitiveness of enterprises in the manufacturing sector which would in turn enhance opportunities for gainful employment, including in the backward regions of the country also.

Border Trade with China through Nathula

173. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether border trade with China through Nathula Pass in Sikkim started in July, 2006;

(b) if so, whether goods worth US $3 billion would be exported annually to China using this route;

(c) whether Government have commisioned RITES Ltd. to conduct a feasibility study for the development of permanent infrastructure at Nathula; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by both the countries to achieve the new proposed target of $ 100 billion by 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Border trade is overland trade and exchange of commodities by the residents along the border. As per the agreed list of commodities for border trade between India and China, 29 items can be exported from India to China and 15 items can be imported into India from China.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, M/s. RITES Ltd. has been commissioned to do a study on long term infrastructure development of the border trade mart at